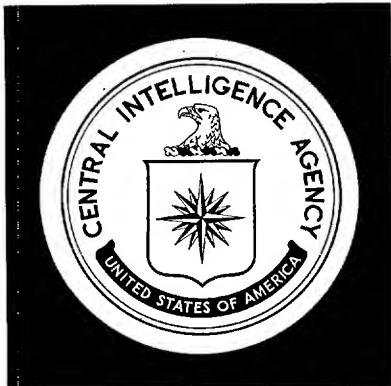


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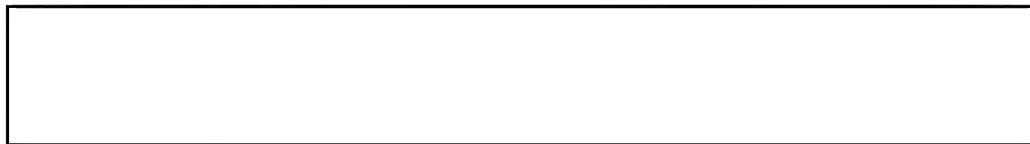
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CHILE: After an initial period of official restraint on the ITT story, the Allende government appears ready to exploit charges of internationally backed conspiracy.

Chilean officials apparently feel that evidence allegedly implicating far right civilian and retired military plotters is sufficient to convince the public that a broad threat to the Allende government exists. [redacted]

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Allende is to speak to a mass rally set for 6 April to protest "the plot to oust and murder" him. The speech will be nationally televised and broadcast.

Denials by Christian Democrats that they were connected with ITT have been attacked as untrue by the Chilean ambassador to the US. The congress has begun an investigation of the whole ITT issue, including involvement of Chileans. These developments will lessen the chance that a planned demonstration by opposition forces will take place on 6 April. [redacted]

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UGANDA-ISRAEL: President Amin announced the closure of the Israeli Embassy yesterday and gave its staff ten days to leave the country, citing Israeli "subversive activities" as the reason.

Amin's action quickly followed his expulsion of Israeli nationals and the Israeli military advisory contingent of approximately 50 men. The departure of the military advisers can only add to Amin's problems with his unruly army. In fact, the many Ugandan soldiers who are tribally related to the southern Sudanese are strongly pro-Israel because of Tel Aviv's support of the Sudanese rebels.

Amin's action amounts to a sharp reverse for the Israelis, who have worked long and hard and expended considerable resources to build their presence and prestige in Africa. East Africa has been one of the focal points. In terms of money alone, Uganda's outstanding debt to Israeli firms for materials and contracting work is now between \$12 and \$13 million

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When the Sudan last week signed a peace agreement with the southern rebels, it marked another sharp setback for the Israelis.

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UN-LEBANON: Despite US reservations, the other permanent members of the Security Council have endorsed in principle Lebanon's request for an increase in the UN presence along the Israeli border.

During informal consultations this week, the French, Chinese, and British agreed with Soviet representative Malik's assessment that additional observers are needed. All the Security Council members, including the Soviets and the Chinese, also agreed with the Lebanese request to handle the matter without a formal council meeting.

Further consultations, however, will have to come to grips with some difficult issues. The most troublesome question will be the respective roles to be played by the secretary-general and the Security Council in any change in the UN presence. The Soviets, hoping to limit the power of the secretary-general, traditionally insist on close management of UN peacekeeping operations by the Security Council. Malik, accordingly, is attempting to build support for his view that the Security Council should stipulate the size and composition of the observer group. He apparently will have the backing of the French, and the Chinese will not oppose the effort. The US and the UK, however, believe that the secretary-general already has sufficient authority to undertake any changes that may be required.

Another potential source of difficulty is the Lebanese request that the Security Council reaffirm the 1949 Armistice Agreements. On several occasions since the 1967 war, Israeli officials have claimed that the agreements were abrogated by Lebanese participation in the hostilities. Lebanon and the UN dispute this claim. In addition, Lebanon has asked,

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but will not insist, that observers be placed on both sides of the border, a request sure to be opposed by the Israelis. Malik, as president of the Security Council this month, has not consulted with the Israelis but it is likely that the British will do so when they take over the chair for April.

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EASTERN EUROPE: A prolonged winter drought in major grain producing areas has diminished prospects for the 1972 harvest and could jeopardize the priority goal of boosting livestock production.

Because there has been little rain since September 1971, soil moisture reserves in mid-March were no better than 70 percent of normal, except in Czechoslovakia and Romania. Major crop areas in Poland, East Germany, Hungary, and Yugoslavia have been hit the hardest.

Unless the drought is broken by heavy rains in early April, yields of winter grain, now at a critical stage of development, and of spring planted crops will be sharply reduced. Farmers in some areas probably are delaying planting until it rains, but if the rains come suddenly, the total area seeded could be reduced.

The lack of moisture for good growth of spring pastures and hay crops also will lower meat production and put additional pressure on already short supplies of fodder from the 1971 harvest in East Germany, Hungary, and Poland. Unless crop prospects improve substantially during the coming weeks, Eastern Europe may be forced to import larger than planned amounts of feed grain and high protein fodder in 1972--for the third successive year--to support their livestock industries. The US, a major producer of these commodities, is likely to be able to increase its share of this expanded market.

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